

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/530,171

Confirmation No. 9015

Applicant: Hirakawa et al.

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Examiner: Lynn Anne Bristol

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Customer No.: 23460

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 22, 2008, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.